

RIDING MOUNTAIN

NATIONAL PARK

CANADA



FOREWORD

The National Parks of Canada are areas of natural beauty and special interest that have been "dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment." Established primarily for the preservation of the unspoiled natural landscapes and for the protection of the native wildlife, they are to be "maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The discovery of mineral hot springs bubbling from the slopes of Sulphur Mountain, by engineers exploring the route for Canada's first transcontinental railway led to the establishment of Canada's first national park. From this small area of ten square miles at Banff, Alberta, set apart in 1885, the national parks system has been extended until it embraces 35 separate areas totalling more than 30,000 square miles.

Although a few parks have been devoted chiefly to the conservation of certain species of big game animals once threatened with extinction, some contain sites memorable in the early history of Canada. Others have been developed so that park visitors may more conveniently view the magnificent scenery and relax in the enjoyment of the inspirational and peaceful environment. From the sea-girt hills on the Atlantic Coast across the rivers and lakes of Central Canada to the alpine vistas of the Rockies and Selkirk, these national playgrounds provide ideal areas for nature study and for recreation.

It is the responsibility of the National Parks Service of the Lands and Development Services Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, to administer these natural areas for the enjoyment of Canada's present and future generations. By progressive stages the parks have been made more easily accessible, wildlife scientifically managed, public services provided, and accommodation and recreational facilities expanded. A staff of experienced wardens keeps constant vigilance throughout these park areas to ensure the protection of the flora and fauna, as well as the safety and convenience of park visitors. Conservation of the forests, the flowers, and the natural wildlife is their chief concern, and the co-operation of all visitors in this important work is greatly appreciated.

In marking, preserving, and restoring sites of national historic importance the National Parks Service is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians representing various parts of the country. From the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia to Fort Prince of Wales on Hudson Bay, nine such sites are administered as National Historic Parks, and many other places of historical importance have been suitably commemorated.

Also of historical significance was the act of linking two great national parks in Alberta and Montana to be known as Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Commemorating the peace that has existed for over 130 years between adjoining nations, this unspoiled area of natural beauty is symbolic of the goodwill enjoyed by these two peoples.

The National Parks of Canada are part of a great national heritage, and under careful administration will continue as a perpetual asset—undiminished by use—for all future generations.

VISITORS GUIDE

Location and Description

Riding Mountain National Park is situated in the mid-western part of Manitoba, approximately 125 miles north of the international boundary between Canada and the United States. The park occupies the broad, undulating plateaus that form the summit of Riding Mountain, one of the highest points of the Manitoba escarpment. The heavily timbered uplands of Riding Mountain, which rise to a height of 2,300 feet above sea level, are in pleasing contrast to the surrounding fertile plains. The park was established in 1929, and contains an area of 1,148 square miles.

Many of the small lakes with which the area is abundantly endowed nestle between the ridges and in the hollows made by ancient glaciers. Clear Lake, the largest and most beautiful body of water in the park, lies just above the southern boundary. The lake is nine miles long and more than two miles across at the widest point. Other lakes in the park include Audy, Katherine, Mistik, Moon, Edwards, and Whirlpool.

The townsite of Waseganing, an Indian name meaning "clear water", is situated on the southern shore of Clear Lake, and is a summer resort only. Within the townsite are business and residential sections. Nearly 350 summer cottages have been erected to date. The business subdivision comprises several blocks and contains general stores, restaurants, butcher shops, drug store, beauty parlours, auto service stations, motion picture theatre, roller skating rink, dance pavilion, and photographic and souvenir stores. The Post Office is located on Waseganing Drive, and the telephone and telegraph offices are on To-wa-pit Drive. A medical centre and a resident doctor are also available.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

The park is linked by hard-surfaced or gravelled all-weather roads with the main provincial highways of Manitoba. There are three entrances, the southern, eastern, and northern gateways, which are located at the park boundaries. The southern approach is through the town of Minnedosa on Highway No. 4, then north by Highway No. 10 to the southern gateway of the park, located half a mile from Waseganing, the administrative headquarters. Approach to the eastern gateway is made via Highway No. 5 from Neepawa to Norgate and then westward to Waseganing. The northern gateway is situated about eight miles south of the town of Dauphin on Highway No. 10, which connects with Provincial Highway No. 5.

Buses, which connect with the main provincial bus-line services of Manitoba and Saskatchewan leave Brandon, Minnedosa and Dauphin daily for the park. Information concerning bus-line connections may be secured from the Greyhound Bus Lines, Winnipeg and Dauphin, and from the Manitoba Motor Transit Ltd. at Brandon.

Rail connections with bus or taxi service to the park may be made from Neepawa, Norgate, Dauphin, and Erickson on the Canadian National Railways, Neepawa and Minnedosa on the Canadian Pacific Railway system, and from the city of Brandon, served by both railway systems.

PARK ADMINISTRATION

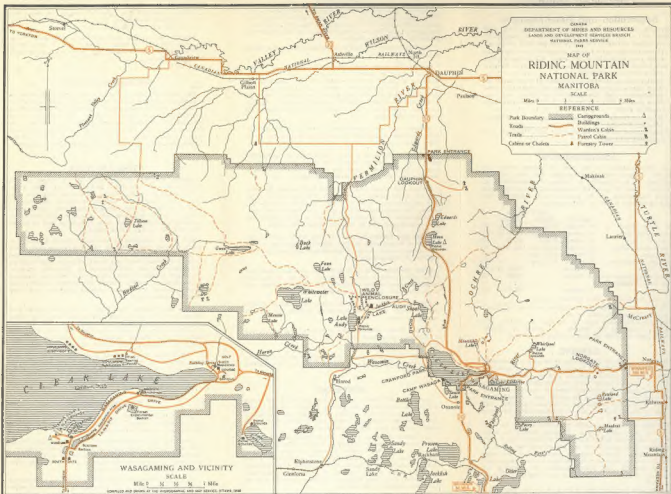
A resident superintendent is in charge of the administration. The Administration Building, situated near the centre of the townsite of Waseganing, contains the office of the Park Superintendent, and the Parks Information Bureau, which is open daily. Information concerning accommodation, travel, recreation, and places of interest, as well as literature and maps, may be obtained on request. The park regulations are enforced by the park warden service, assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS
LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BRANCH
NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE
1941

MAP OF RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK MANITOBA

SCALE
Miles 0 1 2 Miles

| REFERENCE | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Park Boundary | Contingents |
| Roads | Buildings |
| Trails | Warden's Cabin |
| Cabin or Chalet | Park Cabin |
| | Forestry Tower |



GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration and Motor Licences

Motorists entering Riding Mountain National Park must register and obtain transient motor licences as required by the regulations governing the use of national park highways:

- (1) General licence good for any number of trips during the fiscal year ending March 31, which will be honoured in all national parks in Canada. Automobile, \$2.00; auto with trailer attached, \$3.00.
- (2) Special licence good for any number of trips during the fiscal year ending March 31, which will also be honoured in Watonwan Lakes, Elk Island, Prince Albert, and Polar Plateau National Parks: Automobile, \$1.50; auto with trailer attached, \$2.00.
- (3) Single trip licence: Automobile, 25 cents; auto with trailer attached, 50 cents.

Special licence may be obtained for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

Accommodation

All accommodation in the park is located within the townsite. Unless visitors are carrying their own camping equipment it is advisable to arrange accommodation in advance. Lists of approved accommodation and agencies making reservations can be supplied upon request by the Parks Information Bureau at Waseganung.

DAILY RATES

| Name | Capacity | Single | Double | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| The Chalet (Hotel) | 87 rooms | \$3.00 up | \$4.00 up | (C) |
| Sylvan Court Hotel | 42 rooms | \$3.50 up | \$4.50 up | (C) |
| Tow-wa-pit Lodge | 52 rooms | \$2.00 | \$2.75 | (C) |
| Waseganung Lodge | 30 rooms | \$2.00 up | \$2.75 up | (C) |
| Lake Lodge | 24 rooms | \$2.75 up | | (C) |
| Idylwyld Bungalows | 50 cabins | \$2.50 up | | (C) |
| Eden Cabins | 8 cabins | | \$5.00 up | (C) |
| Waseganung Bungalows | 25 cabins | | \$5-45 | (C) |
| Lee's Auto Bungalow | | | | |
| Camp | 12 cabins | | \$5.00 | (C) |

(C) Indicates European Plan (without meals)

NOTE: Rates quoted are latest available but may be subject to minor revision from time to time.

Accommodation may also be secured in rooming and boarding houses in the townsite. A number of summer cottages are available for rental during the season.

CAMPING

The camp-ground at Waseganung is situated in a beautiful grove facing Clear Lake. It is divided into blocks, each containing a kitchen shelter equipped with camp-stoves, tables, electricity, running water, and other conveniences. Refrigerator buildings with individual lockers for storage of perishable supplies are available for public use. A community building is provided for the use of campers and other park visitors. Camping supplies may be purchased from the stores at Waseganung.

The fees for camping are \$1 for ordinary tents for each period of two weeks or less. Camping permits for cabin tents or automobile trailers are issued at rate of 50¢ a night up to two nights, and \$2 for any period over two nights up to two weeks. Permits may be obtained from the camp attendant whose office is at the entrance to the camp-ground.

Public grounds, with limited facilities for camping, are available at Moon Lake, and Lakes Katherine, Whirlpool, and Audy.

Areas have been provided in the park for the operation of youth camps under the auspices of the Army Cadets, the Baptist Church, and the United Church of Canada.

RECREATION

Angling—There is sport for the angler in Clear Lake, Lakes Audy, Moon, and Whirlpool, and several smaller lakes, all of which contain pike. Clear Lake also contains perch, whitefish, and cisco. Lake trout are being planted in this lake to provide additional angling opportunities.

The co-operation of anglers in completing creel census cards is greatly appreciated.

Bathing—The main beach fronting the townsite of Wasegaming extends for nearly a mile and a half. Two large buildings equipped with dressing-rooms are available for public use. The breakwater extending into Clear Lake provides a sheltered area for inexperienced swimmers. Swimming at this beach is supervised by a competent instructor. Bathing may also be enjoyed at many other fine beaches along the shores of Clear Lake.

Boating—Boats and canoes may be hired at the breakwater. Motor launches starting from this pier make trips up and down Clear Lake at regular intervals. Sailing is also popular.

Cycling—A bicycle is a great convenience for sightseeing since it can be used not only on the main highways but on many of the secondary roads and trails leading to numerous beauty spots. Bicycles may be rented locally.

Golf—A golf course operated by the Park Service has been laid out at the eastern end of Clear Lake about three miles from Wasegaming. It is an 18-hole course in a picturesque setting. The clubhouse overlooks Clear Lake and the 9th green. A professional is in attendance, and golf supplies, meals, and light refreshments may be obtained during the season.

Hiking and Riding—Several trails and bridle paths in the vicinity of Wasegaming provide delightful outings for visitors who desire to hike or ride. Saddle horses may be hired from outfitters at Wasegaming.

Lawn Bowling—A new championship bowling green provides added pleasure and recreation for visitors. It has eight excellent greens, a fine club-house with dressing rooms, and is provided with lighting for evening play.

Museum—The Museum, which contains a collection of wildlife specimens and other interesting exhibits, is open at convenient hours.

Playing Fields—Areas suitable for baseball and softball and a children's playground are located near the public campground.

Tennis—Eight championship tennis courts are available for use and a large pavilion with dressing-rooms is at the disposal of players.

SIGHTSEEING

More than 50 miles of good roads and about the same mileage of secondary roads provide access to many beauty spots. Visitors carrying cameras should find numerous opportunities to obtain excellent scenic and wildlife "shots" with which to adorn their holiday scrapbook albums.

On Riding Mountain, visitors obtain remarkable views of the surrounding country, including Dauphin Lake and Duck Mountain. From the Dauphin Lookout, 29 miles, and from the Narquois Lookout, approximately 19 miles from Wasegaming, magnificent panoramas are unfolded as hundreds of prairie farms spread out like an enormous checkerboard. On a clear day Lake Manitoba, 75 miles distant, may be seen shimmering in the sunlight.

For those who prefer to do their sightseeing on foot or on horseback, a trip to Bubbling Springs, 3 miles from

Wasegoning at the east end of Clear Lake, is well worth while. Clear, cold water flows from the spring at the rate of 3,000 gallons per hour. The area around the spring has been beautifully landscaped. This spot is reached over Highway No. 10 and the Glen Seng Road.

Popular rides or hikes might include such delightful places as Lake Katharine, 8 miles; Minnett Lake, 5 miles; North Shore of Clear Lake, 5 miles; and the Golf Course, 4 miles from Wasegoning.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

The National Parks Act requires that all parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the use of future generations. Therefore, all wildlife within park boundaries is rigidly protected, and hunting and the possession of unlicensed firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are game sanctuaries, visitors must not molest any wild animals or birds or their nests. Dogs or cats are not allowed in any national park except under special permission.

FAUNA AND FLORA

Animals and Birds—Many species of wild animal life are found in the park, including a herd of wild elk, which is one of the largest in Canada. Moose, white-tailed and mule deer, bear, beaver, timber wolf, and coyote are also numerous. A visit to the wild animal enclosure near Lake Audy, which contains a small exhibition herd of buffalo, will provide an excellent opportunity to see these animals as well as moose, deer, and elk, in their native haunts.

Bird life is numerous in the park. Migratory waterfowl which find rest and shelter on the lakes include wild ducks, Canada geese, swans, cormorants, and pelicans. Interesting birds of charming song and lovely plumage noticed during mid-summer include such species as the song sparrow, red-winged blackbird, both eastern and mountain bluebird, Baltimore oriole, catbird, western meadowlark, bluejay, king fisher, pileated woodpecker, evening grosbeak, and ruby-throated humming bird.

Trees and Flowers—The forests of the park include such species as white spruce, jack pine, aspen, white birch, black spruce, tamarack, balsam fir, bur oak, green ash, elm, and Manitoba maple, as well as mountain ash, wild plum, and service berry. Shrubs include hazel, highbush cranberry, Saskatoon, dogwood, choke cherry, and mountain maple.

Wild flowers, which grow in great profusion, include wild rose, twin flower, marsh marigold, orange lily, pasque flower (anemone), violet, bunch berry, Indian paint brush, brown-eyed susan, aster, and golden rod.

FIRE PREVENTION

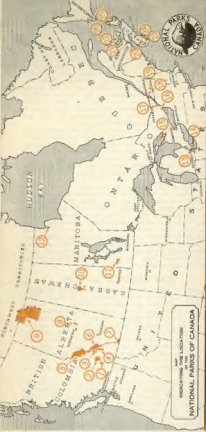
Visitors are requested to co-operate with park officers in the prevention of fire. Smoking materials and camp-fires should be completely extinguished.

Camp-fires may be kindled only at places provided for the purpose. Persons using the park trails unaccompanied by a licensed guide should acquaint themselves with the parks regulations and secure particulars concerning suitable campsites and other related information.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished. If the fire cannot be put out promptly, the nearest park officer should be notified at once. A fire in a national park may cause damage which cannot be repaired in a hundred years.

Key to map of National Parks

1. Mount Revelstoke
2. Glacier
3. Yoho
4. Kootenay
5. Jasper
6. Banff
7. Watkins Lakes
8. Elk Island
9. Wood Buffalo
10. Prince Albert
11. Riding Mountain
12. Fort Prince of Wales
13. Fort Morden
14. Point Pelee
15. Georgian Bay Islands
16. St. Lawrence Islands
17. Fort Wellington
18. Fort Chambly
19. Fort Lennox
20. Fundy
21. Fort Resolution
22. Prince Edward Island
23. Fort Repulse
24. Fort Assin
25. Fortress of Louisbourg
26. Cape Breton Highlands



Write for Information to:

EDITORIAL AND INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

OTTAWA, CANADA